

Researching The Internet: A Training Workshop for Librarians

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The Internet as A Tool for Research

- A worldwide network of computer networks.
- It is an interconnection of large and small networks around the globe.
- The Internet began in 1962 as a computer network for the U.S. military and over time has grown into a global communication tool of many thousands of computer networks that share a common addressing scheme.
- Unlike online services, which are centrally controlled, the Internet is decentralized by design.
- Each Internet computer, called a host, is independent. Its operators can choose which Internet services to use and which local services to make available to the global Internet community.

Source: Webopedia - <http://webopedia.internet.com/>

In this presentation, we shall look at...

- Free but Quality Internet Resources
- Librarianship-focused Internet Resources
- Types of Search Tools
 - Subject Directories
 - Search Tools
 - Meta-search Tools
 - Invisible Web
- Methods of Searching the Internet

Subject Directories (Academic/Professional)

1. Librarian's Index to the Internet
2. Internet Public Library
3. BUBL (Bulletin Board for Libraries)
4. Infomine

<http://lii.org/>

<http://www.ipl.org/>

IPL is a public service organization and a learning/teaching environment at the University of Michigan School of Information.

<http://bubl.ac.uk/link/index.html>

BUBL LINK / 5:15

Search / Subject Manual / A-Z / Countries / Topics / Updated / Random / About / Feedback

Selected Internet resources covering all academic subject areas

Promotional Events Index / Open Access Classification

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

General Reference
books, data, images, journals, maps

Creative Arts
art, design, media, music, photography

Humanities
archaeology, history, philosophy, religion

Language, Literature and Culture
English, ethnography, linguistics, writing

Social Sciences
business, economics, education, law, politics

Engineering and Technology
aeronautics, electronics, energy, robotics

Health Studies
medicine, nursing, nutrition, pharmacy

Life Sciences
agriculture, biology, ecology, genetics, zoology

Mathematics and Computing
internet, programming, viruses, statistics

Physical Sciences
astronomy, chemistry, earth sciences, physics

Bulletin Board for Libraries, provides the best single collection and "the first address" in our subject area.

<http://infomine.ucr.edu/>

INFO-MINE

Scholarly Internet Resource Collections

Search 195,107 Academically Valuable Resources Advanced Search Search Tips

Search

[New, My Open Source Portal Software Released]

Search / Browse by Database

- Biological, Agricultural & Med Sciences
- Business & Economics
- Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Resources
- Electronic Journals
- Government Information
- Instructional Resources: K-12
- Institutional Resources: University
- Internet Enabling Tools
- Maps & GIS
- Physical Sciences, Engineering, CS, Math
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Visual & Performance Arts

Other Subject Directories

- [WWW Virtual Library](http://www.vlib.org/) - <http://www.vlib.org/>
An expert-run catalog of sections of the web.
- [One World - Nations Online](http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/) - <http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/>
A list of virtual gateways to the countries of the world.
- [Mina Rees Library: Selected Web Sites](http://library.gc.cuny.edu/Research/) - <http://library.gc.cuny.edu/Research/>
Subject index to 15,000 informative sites, maintained by the library of the City University of New York.
- [PointClickSurf](http://www.referencepage.com/referencepage.html) - <http://www.referencepage.com/referencepage.html>
Directory of directories and other reference sites, organized by information category.

Subject Directories (Commercial and General)

1. Google.com
2. About.com
3. Looksmart.com
4. Yahoo.com

<http://directory.google.com/>

Google Directory

Web Images Groups Directory News

Google Search

The web organized by topic into categories.

Arts Movies, Music, Television...	Home Consumerism, Homeowners, Family...	Regional Asia, Europe, North America...
Business Industries, Finance, Jobs...	Kids and Teen Computers, Entertainment, School...	Science Biology, Earth Science, Physics...
Computers Hardware, Software, Internet, Software...	News Media, News, Current Events...	Shopping Books, Clothing, Gifts...
Games Board, Video Games, Video...	Recreation Food, Outdoors, Travel...	Society Issues, Culture, Religion...
Health Alternative, Fitness, Medicine...	Reference Education, Libraries, Maps...	Sports Basketball, Football, Soccer...
World Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Russia...		

Librarianship-related Directories

1. Library OPACs
2. Internet Resources for Professional and Individual Development

<http://www.librarytechnology.org/libwebcats/>



<http://www.loc.gov/>



<http://www.sla.org/chapter/ctor/toolbox/resource/cover.htm>



<http://www.itcompany.com/inforetriever/>



Other Great Web Sites Include

- UNESCO Libraries Portal - http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_bib/
Directory of online resources on librarianship and library science, as well as the websites of individual institutions.
- Libraryspot.com
a wealth of reference resources
<http://www.libraryspot.com>

Search Tools

These are tools that locate relevant web pages sorted either by relevance or date. They are generally called Search engines e.g. <http://www.google.com/>



The Best ways of Searching Google.

- Either of the words, use **word OR word**
- Phrases, use **"..."** or **word-word** e.g. search-engine
- Synonyms, use **~word** e.g. ~library
- Include word in the result, use **+word**
- Exclude word from the result, use **-word**
- Words in-between, **Word*word** for e.g. women*nigeria
- Narrow results by government sites, use **Site:gov** (**edu** for educational institutions, **mil** for military...)
- Narrow to the word in the title, use **Allintitle:word**
- Restrict the results to the file type **Filetype:pdf**
- Most of these features can be found in the ADVANCED search Interface

How About Doing Simple Things Like ...

Calculations



Definitions

<http://www.google.com/unclesam>



Other Good Search Engines

- <http://www.alltheweb.com> Search with a simple interface and huge database
- <http://www.ask.com> Ask Jeeves answers questions asked in plain English
- <http://www.teoma.com> it ranks sites partly by subject-specific popularity
- <http://www.wisenut.com> Index of 1.5 billion pages. Search results are clustered into categories.
- <http://www.altavista.com> Offers translation services and multimedia searches.

Meta-search Tools

Meta-search engines search several major engines at once. They act as a middle agent, passing on the query to the major search engines and then returning the results. E.g. **Vivisimo.com** and **I-une.com**

<http://www.vivisimo.com>

The screenshot shows the Vivisimo search engine interface. At the top, the URL <http://www.vivisimo.com> is displayed. Below the header, there is a search bar with the text "library web design" and a "Search" button. To the left of the search bar, there are links for "Advanced Search" and "Help". Below the search bar, there is a section titled "Clustered Results" which lists various categories like "Libraries", "Development Resources", "Tutorials", "Reference", "Homework Help", "Web Sites", and "Other Topics". To the right of the search bar, there is a section titled "Top 21 results returned for the query library web design (Details)". This section lists three results: 1. The Library Web Manager's Reference Center, 2. Web Developer's Virtual Library, and 3. Library Terms That Users Understand. Each result is followed by a brief description and a link to the full text.

Organizes search results from 8 search engines and subject directories

<http://www.i-une.com>

The screenshot shows the i-une search engine interface. At the top, the URL <http://www.i-une.com> is displayed. Below the header, there is a search bar with the text "Searching in over 3,500,000,000 million Web pages". To the left of the search bar, there is a "Search" button. Below the search bar, there is a section titled "Web Directory" which lists various categories like "Free Directory", "The best ever Web Directory", "Free for your Website!", "Make i-une.com your home page", and "Place a search engine in your site". To the right of the search bar, there is a section titled "Advanced Search" which lists various search options like "Google", "Yahoo", "AltaVista", "Fast", "Lycos", "MSN", "Excite", "HotBot", "NorthernLight", "Vindex", "WebCrawler", "Lycos", "MSN", "Excite", "HotBot", "NorthernLight", "Vindex", "WebCrawler".